

SIX SPEAKERS HAMMER BILL

Opposition Men Charge Premier With Sacrificing Ontario's Water Rights

SECOND READING GIVEN

After half a dozen speakers had unmercifully hammered Premier Drury's Lake of the Woods control measure in the Legislature last night, the measure carried through second reading on division. Peter Heenan, Labor member for Kenora, the main opponent of the measure, said the people of Kenora did not desire to make a political issue of it. He would not, therefore, ask for a recorded vote, but would rely on the Premier's promises of protection.

Throughout the whole debate there has been but one spokesman in favor of the measure—Premier Drury, who introduced it. Mr. Heenan spoke against, and last night Hon. G. H. Ferguson, H. H. Dewart, R. R. Hall, Liberal, Parry Sound, and K. S. Stover, Liberal, Algoma, all condemned it as unwarranted sacrifice of Ontario's rights. The demand for the withdrawal of the Meighen bill declaring certain works to be for the general advantage of Canada was frequently reiterated.

Must Take Responsibility.

Hon. G. H. Ferguson, in a speech in which he denounced the Premier's agreement as wanton and reckless neglect to protect the Province's rights, appealed to the Premier to withdraw from the supervision of the Joint Control Board the waters of the English River and Lac Seul. Apparently, he said, the Premier intended to force it through, but the Government, having the majority with which to do it, must take full responsibility.

He asked the Premier to amend his bill so that the water powers of the English River, referred to in the bill, should be under the control of the Ontario section of the Control Board absolutely.

Reading correspondence which had passed between former Premier Meighen and Premier Drury, Hon. Mr. Ferguson sought to show that Right Hon. Mr. Meighen had given Premier Drury ample opportunity to make representations on the second so-called Meighen bill.

Not Take Drury Seriously.

"I doubt if anyone will take the Premier seriously when he states that he labored to protect the interests of the Province," said Hon. Mr. Ferguson. He said that Mr. Meighen apparently took the view that someone would have to control the situation until treaty arrangements had been reached. This, he explained, brought about the so-called Meighen bill, which declared that the Dominion of Canada had the right to control water power for the benefit of the Dominion.

Summing up his criticism of the bill, H. H. Dewart declared that, in his opinion, it failed to provide that the Control Board should act in an advisory capacity, that its decisions should not have the effect of orders.